

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-4, 12, 14, 19, 22-29, 35-37, 41, 42, 44, 49, and 55-67 have been rejected under the second paragraph of § 112 as being indefinite due to the phrase “within a predetermined range.”

Independent claims 1 and 22 have been amended to provide that the water content is either set to or maintained at “50 ppm or more.” As amended, claims 1 and 22 particularly set forth the water content of the organic solvent solution, and one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to discern the boundaries of acceptable water content. Claims 2-4, 12, 14, 19, 23-29, and 55-67 depend from claim 1 or 22 and are, therefore, likewise definite. Claims 35-37, 41, 42, 44, and 49, which do not depend from claim 1 or 22, do not recite the phrase “within a predetermined range.” Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining issues that the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner’s Amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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REPLACEMENT ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT

An object of the present invention is to provide a method for producing an organic thin film, which enables rapid film formation, and enables a dense organic thin film with minimal impurities to be formed stably, and in a plurality of consecutive repetitions. The present invention provides a method for producing an organic thin film in which an organic thin film is formed on the surface of a substrate, including a step (A) of bringing the substrate into contact with an organic solvent solution containing a metal-based surfactant having at least one hydrolyzable group, and a catalyst capable of interacting with the metal-based surfactant, wherein the water content within the organic solvent solution is either set or maintained within a predetermined range.